



National Leadership Engine

CASE STUDIES NLE2024



Developing a leadership pipeline

The National Leadership Engine (NLE) is an initiative of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth & Sports. The project aims at developing a leadership pipeline to increase productivity and achieve better living for the nation.

FOREWORD

This publication features the ten projects selected at regional level for the National Leadership Engine (NLE) project for the year 2024.

Launched in 2018 by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the NLE project aims at unlocking the leadership potential of Mauritian youth, instilling values of trust, excellence, teamwork and innovation. At its core, the project is designed to equip young people with the skills, confidence and mindset necessary to drive meaningful change. Through NLE, participants are introduced to a range of leadership tools and strategies that enable them to create and execute projects with lasting social and economic impact.

What makes the NLE so unique is its focus on collaborative leadership. Young leaders from different backgrounds come together to share ideas, solve problems and learn from each other's experiences. This fosters a sense of shared responsibility and community that goes beyond individual success. The projects showcased in this publication are shining examples of how collaboration can lead to innovative solutions for complex issues, such as food insecurity, waste management and community resilience.

The diversity of these projects demonstrates the wide-ranging potential of youth leadership. From repurposing food waste into sustainable products to building flood alert systems, these initiatives show how young leaders are not only responding to immediate challenges but also laying the groundwork for long-term, systemic change. Their projects address key areas of national importance, aligning with Mauritius' broader goals of sustainable development, food security, social cohesion and economic progress.

These young leaders have proven that leadership is not defined by age but by the ability to inspire, take initiative and remain committed to a cause. They have shown that when given the right platform, young people can be powerful agents of change—whether they are tackling environmental challenges, supporting vulnerable communities, or promoting innovation in education and agriculture.

As we celebrate these remarkable achievements, we also recognise the role of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation, as well as the numerous trainers, co-trainers and network facilitators who have supported the NLE participants throughout their journey. Their dedication has been instrumental in creating an environment where youth can thrive and develop the leadership skills needed to shape the future of Mauritius.

Our hope is that this publication will not only inspire other young people to step forward and lead but also encourage businesses, policymakers and educators to invest more in youth leadership. The talent, energy and innovative spirit of Mauritian youth are immense and with continued support, they can become the driving force behind a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous society.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the NLE project and to the young leaders whose projects reflect the best of what Mauritius' future holds.

**National Productivity and Competitiveness
Council**

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**National
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Projects selected at regional level

Region	Project Selected
Black River	Ecoeat by Ekozenn
Flacq	Bandes des Roles
Grand Port	Revey Ekologik
Lower Plaines Wilhems	Appran Defann Twa - Protez twa avan trop tard
Moka	Heavy Roots
Pamplemousses	JobGo, Konekyon Moris
Port Louis	Flood Monitoring & Alert System
Riviere du Rempart	Plastic Upcycle and Recycle
Savanne	Mo Apran
Upper Plaines Wilhems	Feyaz Ecologik

DISCLAIMER: The findings, interpretations and conclusions in this document are those of the NLE participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NPCC.

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National Leadership Engine



ABOUT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ENGINE 2024 EDITION

Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today

The National Leadership Engine (NLE) project, spearheaded by the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, is redefining the future of youth leadership in Mauritius. Since its inception in 2018, NLE has been dedicated to shaping the leadership potential of the nation's youth, recognising their pivotal role in driving the country's socio-economic progress. This flagship initiative has grown into a transformative platform, nurturing a new generation of forward-thinking leaders who are not only tackling present challenges but also building a sustainable future.

At the heart of the NLE is a belief that leadership is not limited to those in formal positions of power. Instead, it can be developed in any individual, especially the youth, who are bursting with creativity, ambition and the drive to make a difference. By investing in the next generation, NLE is unlocking the full potential of young Mauritians, empowering them to be agents of change in their communities and across the country.

Targeting Mauritians aged 16 to 35, NLE taps into the energy and vision of a vital demographic that is not only the leadership of tomorrow but also a crucial driver of progress today. Through hands-on projects, immersive training and real-world challenges, these young leaders are actively shaping Mauritius' future, from environmental sustainability to technological innovation and social change.

NLE 2024 edition

Nationwide Outreach and Registration

The journey of NLE 2024 began with an ambitious outreach campaign aimed at engaging youth from diverse backgrounds across Mauritius. The initiative targeted young Mauritians aged 16 to 35, emphasising inclusiveness and encouraging participation from all regions. The campaign leveraged multiple platforms—social media, community centres and youth organisations—to ensure widespread awareness.

By the end of the registration period in April 2024, over 490 youths had signed up, a testament to the success of this outreach strategy. This initial phase laid the groundwork for ensuring that NLE's impact reached every corner of Mauritius, providing equal opportunities for all youth to step into leadership roles.

Online Training – Accessible, Flexible and Practical

A key innovation in NLE 2024 was the launch of an online training platform on March 11, 2024. This platform was designed with accessibility and flexibility in mind, allowing participants to engage with the programme at their own pace, regardless of location or time constraints. The online modules covered essential leadership skills, focusing on practical applications in community settings.

The content was crafted to be both engaging and hands-on, ensuring that participants not only learned leadership theory but also understood how to apply these concepts in real-world situations. The modules emphasised critical skills such as problem-solving, strategic thinking, team management and project development.

By April 30, 2024, 332 participants had registered for the online training, with 181 successfully completing over 80% of the modules—a reflection of the participants' dedication and the platform's effectiveness.

Immersive Regional Bootcamps

The next phase of the programme took leadership training to a whole new level with regional bootcamps, held from April 26-28, 2024, in 10 regional hubs across Mauritius. These bootcamps were designed to immerse participants in an environment where they could actively apply their learning and engage in hands-on leadership experiences.

Each bootcamp was led by a dedicated team that included a trainer, co-trainers, network facilitators and supported by NPCC staff. This collaborative team structure ensured that participants received personalised attention, guidance and feedback throughout the bootcamp. Supervisors were also appointed to oversee the smooth operation of activities and ensure that the objectives were met.

The bootcamps focused on experiential learning, where participants worked in teams to address real-world challenges faced by their communities. The exercises emphasised critical leadership aspects like decision-making, teamwork and creative problem-solving. This hands-on approach allowed participants to gain practical experience and confidence, preparing them for the challenges they would face as leaders.

Project Development and Implementation

Following the bootcamps, the focus shifted to the development of community-based projects.

Participants were encouraged to form teams, identify key challenges in their communities that they wanted to address and implement selected projects. NPCC staff and mentors provided ongoing support, guiding participants through the process of refining their projects, ensuring their feasibility and preparing them for assessments.

Assessment and Final Showcases

In August 2024, the regional projects were assessed, with participants presenting their projects to panels of judges. The regional assessments were a key milestone, as they allowed participants to demonstrate the leadership skills they had developed and the impact their projects could potentially make on their communities.

The ten most promising projects from the regional assessments were selected for the national assessment held in August 2024. A panel of four national assessors from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations (UN), African Leadership University (ALU) and the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives finally shortlisted the national winner and runner-ups. All participants will be awarded certificates during the convention and a trophy will be awarded to regional winners for their achievements. The National Winner will receive a cash prize of Rs75,000, while the first runner-up will get Rs50,000 and the second runner-up will have Rs25,000.

Case Study
REGION: BLACK RIVER
PROJECT: ECOEAT BY EKOZENN



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ABSTRACT

Mauritius faces a critical food waste crisis, discarding 118,632 tonnes of food annually, contributing to environmental damage and food insecurity. In response, Ecoeat, led by the youth-driven Ekozenn team from Black River, emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at reducing food waste and driving sustainable change. Leveraging the SCAMPER (Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Put to another use, Eliminate and Rearrange) method, the team innovatively upcycled discarded pineapple skins into artisanal syrup and jam. Through community engagement and workshops, they raised awareness about food waste and promoted sustainable practices. Ecoeat's success not only addressed environmental and social challenges but also fostered leadership skills among the youth, demonstrating the power of creativity, collaboration and resilience in achieving lasting impact.

Ecoeat by Ekozenn - Tackling Food Waste

The Food Waste Crisis

Mauritius faces a critical issue: rampant food waste. Every year, the island discards an astonishing 118,632 tonnes of food—equivalent to an alarming 225.7 kilogrammes of food wasted every minute (Source: <https://defimedia.info/projet-de-loi-sur-le-gaspillage-alimentaire-2257-kilos-de-nourriture-jetes-chaque-minute-maurice->)

Food waste not only results in economic losses but also severely impacts the environment by releasing harmful methane gas, a potent contributor to climate change. Amidst this crisis, food insecurity remains a reality for many on the island, underscoring the need for a sustainable, transformative solution.

Ecoeat: Youth Leading the Way

Driven by a desire to shape a more sustainable future, the Ekozenn team—a group of dedicated young leaders from Black River—stepped up to address the food waste challenge. Their mission was clear: find a way to reduce food waste and create lasting change. After conducting surveys and analysing public behaviour, the team discovered that a majority of people threw away food waste without repurposing it.

Most people were unaware of how to reduce food waste and poor food management practices were compounding the problem.

Innovative Thinking: SCAMPERING a Solution

Armed with this knowledge, the Ekozenn team turned to the SCAMPER method—Substitute, Combine, Adapt, Modify, Put to another use, Eliminate and Rearrange—to explore creative solutions. Their attention quickly focused on one of Mauritius' most wasted resources: pineapple skins. Rather than letting this fragrant, discarded by-product go to waste, they envisioned delicious, sustainable transformation—artisanal pineapple syrup and jam.

This idea was not just about reducing waste; it was about unlocking new economic opportunities for local farmers and entrepreneurs. Pineapple skins would no longer be viewed as waste but as a valuable resource that could drive change.

Bringing Ecoeat to Life

With a clear vision in mind, the Ekozenn team jumped into action. They began by collecting pineapple skins from local markets, treating what was once discarded as a precious resource. They meticulously cleaned, processed and transformed the skins into a flavourful and aromatic syrup and jam, embodying the power of upcycling food waste into something valuable.



Figure 1: Collecting Pineapple skin from local market

To ensure quality, the team conducted community tasting sessions and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. This fuelled their determination to expand production and perfect their process. However, their mission did not stop at creating a product—they knew they had to inspire others.



Figure 2: Natural & Artisanal Pineapple Juice & Jam

The team launched educational campaigns to raise awareness about food waste and the benefits of upcycling, holding workshops and outreach programmes to encourage sustainable practices across the community.

A Legacy of Leadership

Ecoeat became more than just a project—it was a transformative experience for the young leaders involved. Through their efforts, they developed essential leadership skills, including strategic thinking, resilience and the ability to set a clear vision and delegate tasks effectively.



Figure 3: Advocating about upcycling

Challenges abounded—from team members leaving the project to difficulties engaging stakeholders—but the team adapted, rising to meet every obstacle with determination and creativity.

Technical expertise was another key outcome. The hands-on experience of upcycling food waste and developing a sustainable product provided invaluable lessons for their future endeavours. Collaboration and communication were critical to their success. From market vendors to community organisations, the team engaged diverse stakeholders, learning how to rally support for a cause and foster lasting partnerships.



Figure 4: Product Tasting

Ecoeat's Impact: An Inspiration for Change

Ecoeat is a shining example of how youth-driven innovation can tackle critical environmental and social challenges. The project's success underscores the power of passion, dedication and a commitment to sustainability in creating lasting positive change. The young leaders behind Ecoeat have become advocates for sustainable practices, inspiring their communities to adopt new habits that benefit both society and the environment. Their journey shows that no challenge is insurmountable when approached with creativity, conviction, and collaboration. Ecoeat serves as a beacon of hope and a call to action, demonstrating the transformative power of youth leadership in shaping a sustainable future for Mauritius and beyond.

"Ecoeat was not just about reducing food waste. We saw how small actions could create ripples of change in our communities. Leading this project taught me resilience, adaptability and the power of collaboration. We faced setbacks, but each challenge strengthened our resolve. Seeing our pineapple syrup and jam come to life from discarded skins and watching people embrace the concept of upcycling, was a moment of pride. It reminded us that youth have the power to drive meaningful, lasting impact—if we believe in the cause and push through together."

Soopaul Darell, Project Leader



TESTIMONIAL



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ABSTRACT

In a world grappling with environmental challenges and the dominance of digital screens in childhood play, a group of visionary young leaders embarked on a transformative mission. Their goal was to repurpose discarded event banners into educational board games that combine environmental stewardship with the joy of hands-on play. This story traces their inspiring journey, the skills they developed and the significant impact they made on their community.

Bandes Des Roles- Re-purposing used banners to make board games

Navigating Environmental and Social Challenges

Our planet is facing pressing environmental issues, notably the growing problem of non-recyclable waste. Vibrant event and advertising banners often end up in landfills, exacerbating environmental damage. At the same time, the digital age has shifted childhood activities towards screens, overshadowing traditional play that is essential for physical health, creativity and social interaction. This challenge presents an opportunity to find innovative solutions that both protect our environment and reignite the joy of hands-on discovery for children.

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The 'Island Wanderers' Initiative: Merging Sustainability with Play

Motivated to make a meaningful difference, the 'Island Wanderers' launched the "Bandes Des Roles" project. This pioneering initiative aimed at repurposing discarded banners into educational board games.

The project's goals were threefold: to reduce waste by transforming banners into functional games, to revive classic games like Snakes and Ladders, Tic-Tac-Toe and Hopscotch to encourage physical activity and social interaction and to educate communities about recycling and sustainability through interactive workshops.

The Journey Unfolds: Guided by the PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) Cycle

Planning the Vision

The journey began with careful planning. The team conducted surveys to understand how screen time affected children's physical activity and social skills. With this knowledge, they set out to bridge the gap between technology and traditional play, envisioning a project that would harmonise both.

Turning Vision into Reality

The vision materialised as the team began repurposing discarded banners into colourful board games. Local artisans, including talented artists and painters, volunteered their skills to create vibrant versions of classic games. Each game featured eye-catching designs and eco-friendly messages, transforming waste into meaningful playthings.



Figure 5 Stakeholders providing their support

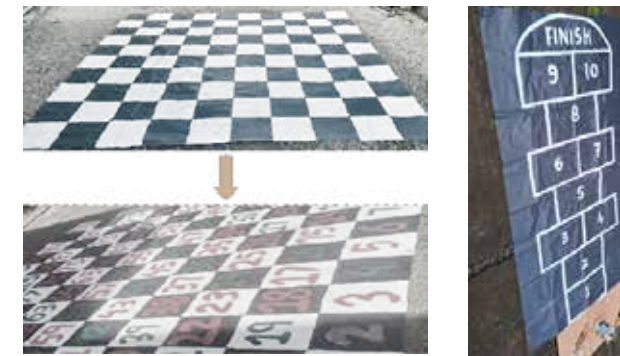


Figure 6: Games created

Testing the Waters

A pilot campaign was launched in a selected school to evaluate the games' effectiveness and reception. Feedback from this initial phase was crucial, allowing the team to refine their approach and ensure the games met their goals and resonated with their young audience.

Expanding the Vision

Buoyed by the pilot's success, the project expanded to other schools. The team continued their advocacy for environmental protection and recycling through ongoing activities and workshops, seamlessly integrating these lessons into the enjoyment of the repurposed games.



Figure 7: Campaign in Schools

Navigating Challenges and Building Skills

The journey of the 'Bandes Des Roles' project was marked by significant hurdles. The team faced difficulties with collecting and transporting used banners, particularly with some businesses showing indifference toward recycling.

Logistical issues regarding cost and coordination added to the complexity. There were difficulties with printing the banners. The upholstered banners were not up to expectations. To navigate these challenges, the team demonstrated remarkable resilience and ingenuity. They forged partnerships with local businesses, shopping mall and event organisers to streamline the collection process. By engaging local artisans, they managed to reduce production costs and ensure high-quality outcomes. These experiences honed their project management skills, as they adeptly balanced tasks and deadlines. They also refined their creative problem-solving abilities, transforming discarded materials into engaging board games. Through these efforts, they built strong community connections, learning to collaborate effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders. Their journey not only deepened their understanding of sustainability but also enhanced their commitment to environmental advocacy.

Bridging Generations with Play and Purpose

The 'Bandes Des Roles' project exemplifies how young leaders can turn environmental and social challenges into opportunities for positive change. By repurposing waste into vibrant board games and promoting sustainability, they have revitalised traditional play and educated their communities. Their journey is a powerful reminder of the impact that vision, collaboration and perseverance can have in making a significant difference for future generations.

"I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved with the 'Bandes Des Roles' project. Our team's diligent strategic planning and execution transformed a novel concept into a tangible product. Our young leaders have demonstrated exceptional creativity, dedication and resilience. They transformed discarded materials into meaningful play experiences and empowered communities to embrace sustainability. This project is a testament to how innovation and collaboration can address environmental and social challenges, leaving a lasting legacy of play and environmental stewardship."

Roodrani Rajputtee



TESTIMONIAL

Case Study
REGION: GRAND PORT
PROJECT: REVEY EKOLOGIK



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ABSTRACT

Revey Ekologik, a youth-led initiative, is transforming agriculture in Mauritius through innovative, sustainable practices. Faced with the challenges of outdated farming techniques, reliance on pesticides, water scarcity and environmental degradation, the team has popularised solutions such as bamboo greenhouses, rainwater harvesting and organic farming. Their efforts have not only addressed critical issues but have also inspired local farmers and gardeners to embrace eco-friendly methods. This story of resilience, leadership and community engagement underscores the power of young leaders to drive meaningful change and foster sustainability in agriculture.

Revey Ekologik: Young Leaders Reimagining the Future of Farming

Mauritius' Agricultural Conundrum

Mauritius' agricultural sector is grappling with several critical challenges: outdated farming practices that depend on pesticides and synthetic fertilisers are causing environmental damage and health hazards. The sector also relies heavily on imported labour due to a lack of interest in farming among local youth. The widespread use of metal greenhouses, while common, is both expensive and environmentally damaging due to their high carbon footprint and susceptibility to corrosion. Adding to these issues, water scarcity and inefficient irrigation methods have further hampered the sustainability of agriculture on the island.

A Call to Action

Driven by a passion for sustainable agriculture, the Revey Ekologik team embarked on a mission to address these pressing issues. The journey began with thorough research into the current farming practices. They spoke with farmers, surveyed communities and analysed the agricultural landscape, finding a growing awareness of the dangers of pesticides but also barriers preventing access to organic alternatives. These youth leaders knew something had to change and they were determined to be the ones to make it happen.

Realising that organic farming, though initially yielding less produce, offered long-term benefits like improved soil health and resilience to pests, they committed to finding innovative solutions that could address these challenges. The insights they gathered ignited their determination to implement practical, sustainable farming methods that could be adopted both by large-scale farmers and backyard gardeners.

Bringing Solutions to Life

Revey Ekologik set to work, driven by a belief that small changes could have a big impact. Their approach was both innovative and grounded in practicality. They set out to encourage farmers and home gardeners to transition to organic farming—showing them that it was not only achievable but essential for the future.

They launched a small-scale plantation project, demonstrating how, with the help of simple, biodegradable and recycled materials, farming could be made more sustainable. The team did not just preach the benefits of organic farming—they showcased them. They replaced traditional metal greenhouses with bamboo structures, illustrating the durability, cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of bamboo as a building material.

Furthermore, they installed rainwater harvesting systems and gravity-fed drip irrigation systems using recycled PVC pipes. These water conservation measures including mulching addressed the issue of water scarcity, enabling farmers to maximise water efficiency and reduce dependence on local supplies. These practical innovations were the first steps in their vision of reshaping the future of farming in Mauritius.



Figure 8: Construction of bamboo greenhouse-recycled materials and bamboo used



Figure 9: Integration of pest management



Figure 10: Water Management

Spreading the Word

But Revey Ekologik knew that change could not happen without the support of the community. Awareness became a cornerstone of their mission. They launched public awareness campaigns and workshops, teaching communities about the dangers of pesticide use, the importance of organic farming and the long-term benefits of sustainability. Through hands-on workshops, they introduced eco-friendly techniques such as companion planting and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), empowering local farmers and home gardeners to adopt this sustainable method.



Figure 11: Results achieved

Trials of Leadership

The path was far from smooth. The remote location of their project site made transportation difficult, but the team's resourcefulness prevailed—one member provided bicycles so they could all travel to the site together. They faced countless setbacks, from insect infestations threatening their crops to intruding

animals disrupting their fields. When a team member left, the workload increased, but the remaining members rose to the challenge. They divided tasks, worked late into the night and approached every obstacle with determination and calm. These trials tested their determination but also forged their leadership skills.



Figure 12: Advocating about organic farming

Hope

Revey Ekologik is a story of hope, resilience and innovation. Against the odds, these young leaders faced the challenges of Mauritius' agricultural sector head-on, turning problems into opportunities for growth. They have proven that, with passion, teamwork and a shared vision, young people can lead the change toward a sustainable future.

"Leading the Revey Ekologik project has been one of the most transformative experiences of my life. What started as an idea to make agriculture more sustainable in Mauritius quickly evolved into a movement that touched not just our team but our entire community. What inspired me the most throughout this journey was the unwavering commitment of our team. I have learned that leadership is about more than guiding a project—it's about empowering others to believe in themselves and in the change they can create. And that's exactly what we did at Revey Ekologik. This project has shown me the power of young minds and hearts working together towards a common goal. I feel incredibly fortunate to have led this remarkable team and I am excited to see how our work will continue to inspire others to take action for a sustainable future."

Seeneevassen Dhorassoo



TESTIMONIAL



Protez toi avan trop tard



ABSTRACT

In response to rising concerns about personal safety and misconceptions surrounding self-defence, a group of young leaders launched an impactful initiative focused on empowerment, physical fitness, and legal awareness. Through a series of awareness sessions, practical training and mental preparedness workshops, they provided essential skills to individuals from diverse backgrounds. The project addressed challenges with innovation and community collaboration, resulting in a safer, more confident public. The initiative highlighted the importance of combining practical skills with legal knowledge and mental resilience, fostering a supportive and informed community.

Protez toi avan trop tard

A Rising Need for Safety and Awareness

In an era where personal safety is increasingly compromised by theft, bullying and attacks, the need for self-defence education is more urgent than ever. Many misconceptions suggest that self-defence requires advanced skills or physical strength, leaving individuals unaware of their legal rights and practical self-defence techniques. Recognising this critical gap, a dedicated group of young leaders set out to provide a comprehensive self-defence programme focused on empowerment, physical fitness and legal awareness.



Figure 13: News filled with citizens being attacked and how to protect oneself

A Mission to Empower and Educate

The project’s mission was clear: to equip participants with self-defence skills that foster confidence, physical fitness and mental resilience while staying within legal boundaries. By challenging the myth that self-defence is reserved for the physically strong, the initiative aimed at showing that these essential skills are accessible to everyone.

Transforming Vision into Action

The initiative began with a thorough data collection phase, which highlighted the increasing concerns about personal safety. With this understanding, the project team launched a series of awareness sessions. Partnering with the Mauritius Self Defence Federation, the Crime Prevention Unit and legal experts, they offered free one-hour sessions that detailed the legal aspects of self-defence in Mauritius. This foundational education was essential for ensuring that participants understood their rights and responsibilities in potentially dangerous situations.



Figure 14: Awareness session on self-defence

Future Plans

The team aims at expanding its reach and make self-defence accessible to more people. It plans to collaborate with local businesses, schools and universities to spread awareness about personal safety and legal rights. Specialised training sessions will be offered to companies in and around Ebène. These sessions will be fee-based to cover the costs of bringing in qualified instructors. The team will also propose its programmes to educational institutions. For those who prefer a more flexible schedule, a condensed three-day workshop can be attended weekly. This format will allow for frequent engagement and cater to a wider range of participants. To make the programme more accessible, the team will seek sponsors to help fund the workshops. Participants will be required to pay a fee to secure their spot.

Navigating Challenges and Building Skills

Throughout the project, the young leaders encountered and overcame various challenges. They faced logistical issues with coordinating sessions and ensuring widespread participation.

By collaborating with local organisations and leveraging community support, they managed to streamline the implementation process. This experience honed their skills in project management, creative problem-solving and community engagement. They learned to balance tasks effectively, innovate solutions and build strong partnerships with diverse stakeholders.

"I am immensely proud of what we have achieved with this self-defence initiative. Our young leaders have demonstrated incredible dedication and creativity in transforming our vision into reality. They have empowered citizens with the skills and confidence to protect themselves and navigate challenges effectively. This project stands as a testament to the power of education and collaboration in building a safer, more resilient community."

Hevinsing Calcutteea

TESTIMONIAL



A comprehensive Do It Yourself (DIY) and intelligent end-to-end vertical growing solution



ABSTRACT

Mauritius faces serious food security challenges, with 75% of its food being imported and the rising costs of local production further complicating matters. Urbanisation, climate change and excessive pesticide use have rendered traditional farming unsustainable. The Heavy Roots project, led by young innovators, developed a scalable, automated aeroponic grow-tower to combat these challenges. By integrating Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and creating a community-based marketplace, this initiative demonstrated the potential of technology-driven farming in addressing food security. Through resilience, adaptability and strong leadership, the team empowered local farmers and non-farmers alike, while significantly reducing reliance on imports.

A comprehensive DIY and intelligent end-to-end vertical growing solution

A Nation at Risk: The Challenge of Food Security

Mauritius' reliance on imported food, rising inflation, shrinking arable land and extreme weather events have placed a heavy burden on the nation's food security. Farmers struggle with reduced profitability due to intermediaries, while non-farmers find little time or energy to engage in traditional gardening. At the same time, public concerns over excessive pesticide use have sparked demand for safer, locally grown produce. These challenges have made it increasingly clear that traditional farming is no longer a sustainable solution for small-scale farmers or urban households.

Sparking Innovation: The Birth of Heavy Roots

Recognising the depth of the problem, a group of young leaders came together to create a solution to address Mauritius' food security crisis. They developed Heavy Roots, an innovative, scalable and customisable aeroponic grow-tower system that maximises limited space by stacking crops vertically, reducing the reliance on soil and traditional farming methods. This system, driven by advanced agricultural practices, offers a way to grow food sustainably, even in non-traditional environments by leveraging the latest technology. Heavy Roots is a one-of-a-kind model in Mauritius, using technology to track nutrient deficiency, water sensors and an automatic water irrigation system.

Building a Future with Vertical Farming

The team undertook a comprehensive market study to evaluate the potential of their vertical farming solution. They identified a Total Available Market (TAM) of 1.3 million potential customers, with a Serviceable Available Market (SAM) of 411,700, primarily targeting urban households and hobbyist gardeners. Government reports from the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security provided key insights into crop losses and the nation's reliance on food imports. The team also conducted surveys to collect data on how local farmers were impacted by events such as COVID-19, torrential rains and cyclones. Households were also questioned to gauge interest in vertical gardening and competitor analysis revealed opportunities where Heavy Roots could offer superior, scalable solutions.

Designing the Grow-Tower

The team meticulously engineered their grow tower using PVC pipes and IoT sensors to optimise the environment for crop growth. This system reduces manual labour by automating water and nutrient flow, ensuring that plants receive consistent care.

Gaining Sponsorship

Securing materials was key to the project's success. The team obtained crucial sponsorships from Everyfin Ltd and Innovage Ltd, who provided funding to purchase essential components like pipes and electrical sensors, which enabled the team to build and refine the grow-tower system.

Engaging the Community

To raise awareness, the team turned to social media, creating educational content and hands-on workshops. They collaborated with local influencers and attended Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) fairs to promote the benefits of the Heavy Roots solution, driving community interest and engagement in vertical farming as well as raising awareness on current pesticides usage practice in Mauritius and its implications on our health.

Transforming Communities

The results spoke for themselves. The first crops, primarily lettuce, grown using the aeroponic towers were significantly larger and healthier than those grown through traditional farming methods.

Community members received the produce, fostering a culture of sharing and cooperation. Heavy Roots proved that vertical farming could offer a sustainable, scalable solution to food security challenges in Mauritius, making farming accessible to both urban and rural populations.



Figure 15: Vertical farming results

Leadership in Action: Skills Gained

Throughout the project, the young leaders exhibited remarkable vision by keeping the project's long-term goals at the forefront of their efforts, constantly aligning their strategies with the broader objective of tackling food security. Their ability to think strategically allowed them to anticipate potential challenges and innovate solutions that were not only effective but scalable for the future. Alongside this vision, they demonstrated exceptional resilience in the face of unexpected setbacks, such as technical difficulties with the early prototypes of their grow-towers. Rather than being discouraged by these challenges, they saw them as opportunities to learn and grow, continuously iterating on their designs until the systems were functioning at optimal levels.

Adaptability was another key trait that defined their leadership. The project required constant adjustment—whether it was navigating technical and logistical constraints or responding to community needs. They were quick to pivot and apply new knowledge as they encountered unforeseen issues, from improving the nutrient flow in the aeroponic system to managing sponsorship negotiations and community outreach.

Strong communication skills also played a pivotal role in the project's success. The leaders actively fostered open dialogue, both within their team and with external stakeholders, ensuring that everyone remained aligned on the project's objectives.

Moreover, the young leaders cultivated a culture of learning and continuous improvement, recognising that innovation thrives on experimentation and reflection. Their commitment to growth was not just about improving the grow-towers—it extended to their own leadership capabilities. Each challenge presented an opportunity to sharpen their problem-solving skills, enhance their collaboration techniques and reinforce their understanding of sustainable agricultural practices.



Advocacy Programme for Heavy Roots

The Heavy Roots programme focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture practices through its Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered aeroponic systems, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A Vision for the Future

Heavy Roots exemplifies how young leaders are harnessing technology to transform agriculture and address pressing food security challenges in Mauritius. Through the innovative use of IoT sensors and aeroponic technology, these leaders have developed a system that produces high-quality crops with minimal space and resources, demonstrating that sustainable solutions are within reach. With plans to expand their impact and reach more people, these young leaders are driving the future of food security, bringing the vision of a self-sustaining Mauritius closer to reality.

"Heavy Roots has been more than just a project—it's been a journey of growth, determination and purpose. What started as an idea to address food security has grown into something much more significant. Along the way, we faced obstacles that tested us, but each challenge taught us to innovate, adapt and push forward. Seeing the impact we've made—on the land, on people's lives and on the future of agriculture—fills me with immense pride. This is just the beginning and we are ready to keep growing, leading and making a real difference."

Akshay Harbilass

TESTIMONIAL

Case Study
REGION: PAMPLEMOUSSES
PROJECT: JOBGO - Koneksyon Maurice



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Team Leader



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ABSTRACT

JobGo emerged from the urgent need to address the inefficiencies and shortcomings in the traditional job-hunting process in Mauritius. Faced with high youth unemployment rates, lengthy and cumbersome application procedures, limited opportunities for skill development and poor job-to-skill matching, the project set out to redefine employment connectivity in the region. JobGo aims to be more than just a job board; it is designed as a community-centric employment platform that seamlessly bridges the gap between job seekers and local talent pools, enhancing the overall job search and hiring experience.

By leveraging data collection, forming strategic partnerships with educational institutions, local businesses, NGOs and government agencies and incorporating innovative application features, the Koneksyon Maurice team has taken significant steps towards transforming how Mauritians find and fill job opportunities. The platform integrates real-time updates, streamlined communication channels, and localised matching algorithms to provide a more efficient, engaging and responsive experience for users. Furthermore, by focusing on inclusivity and accessibility, the project aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities and Quality Education.

JOBGO- Koneksyon Maurice

Connecting Mauritians to Opportunity

In the evolving job market of Mauritius, traditional job hunting had become a daunting process, especially for young people. With soaring unemployment rates and job matching systems that were slow and inefficient, many young job seekers found themselves struggling. At the same time, employers faced difficulties in finding local talent. It was clear that the system was inefficient and something needed to change.

This is how 'Koneksyon' Maurice was born—a groundbreaking mobile application (app) designed to transform the employment landscape.

More than just a job search tool, Koneksyon Maurice sought to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers, offering a streamlined, accessible platform where users could effectively showcase their skills. But beyond matching candidates with jobs, the app aimed at empowering the Mauritian community, tackling real-world workforce challenges and providing a path toward more equitable access to opportunities.

Data-Driven Beginnings

The journey of the young leaders behind JobGo started with a fundamental understanding: to create an effective solution, one must first deeply understand the problem. The team knew that building a platform for employment could not be based on assumptions alone; it required concrete, data-driven insights. Driven by this realisation, they embarked on an extensive research mission, gathering input from various sectors of society, including job seekers, employers and service providers. Their goal was to identify the real pain points within the current job search process and to uncover the barriers that both job seekers and employers face.

This research revealed a high demand for a streamlined digital platform that could cater to the needs of the modern job seeker. The data highlighted several key features that users wanted—like the ability to create professional resumes effortlessly, discover job opportunities nearby and creatively showcase their skills to stand out in a competitive market. Equipped with these insights, the team set out to build an app tailored to these exact needs, ensuring that every aspect of JobGo would provide meaningful value to its users.

By grounding their efforts in data and directly addressing the needs and challenges (the departure of key members due to misunderstandings about their roles) the Koneksyon Maurice team is not just building an app—they are creating a movement towards more effective and equitable employment solutions for Mauritians.

JobGo: A Dual Advantage for Job Seekers and Employers

JobGo is a powerful platform that offers significant benefits for both job seekers and employers, creating a mutually beneficial environment.

For job seekers, the app streamlines the job search process, making it more efficient and accessible. With features like AI-powered resume creation, easy application submissions and the ability to showcase skills through short video reels, candidates can stand out in the job market with greater ease. These dynamic tools allow users to present their qualifications in a more engaging and impactful way.

For employers, JobGo offers access to a rich pool of local talent, reducing recruitment costs and time. The app's built-in rating and feedback system provides employers with confidence in the quality of the candidates they hire. Additionally, the map feature enables businesses and individuals to quickly identify and connect with job seekers in close proximity, further streamlining the hiring process. Beyond these practical advantages, JobGo is designed to foster a strong sense of community. By encouraging collaboration between local businesses and job seekers, the app promotes an environment where opportunities are accessible and skills are valued. This focus on community-driven employment not only enhances local economic growth but also strengthens social bonds across Mauritius.

Competitive Features of JobGo

JobGo distinguishes itself through a suite of innovative features tailored to optimise the job search experience and foster community engagement. The app includes an AI-powered resume builder that enables users to create professional, optimised resumes with ease, enhancing their visibility to potential employers. Additionally, the reels feature allows job seekers to creatively showcase their skills and experiences through short, engaging videos, providing a dynamic way to stand out in the job market.

For employers, it offers a map feature that simplifies the process of finding local talent, making it easier to connect with candidates in close proximity. The app also incorporates a rating and feedback system that builds trust and accountability on both sides, ensuring quality and reliability in hiring.

To further support users, JobGo provides job tips and personalised job recommendations through the JobGo AI.

This feature helps users stay competitive by offering valuable advice on career growth and matching them with job opportunities that align with their skills and career goals.

These combined elements make JobGo a unique, community-focused platform that significantly enhances both efficiency and engagement in the job market, offering a comprehensive solution to employment challenges in Mauritius.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, the Koneksyon Maurice team has ambitious plans to broaden their impact and improve accessibility. A key step in their roadmap is to establish a physical office that would allow job seekers to access the app's services in person. To make the platform even more inclusive, the team plans to introduce a Creole language feature, ensuring the app is accessible to a wider audience in Mauritius. Finally, to boost visibility and community engagement, the team plans to participate actively in job fairs and other local events.

The team's dedication to creative problem-solving and their commitment to societal impact demonstrate how fresh perspectives can lead to effective, sustainable solutions. Their innovative work is reshaping how employment is approached in Mauritius, proving that targeted, community-focused technology can address and resolve pressing social challenges.

"Koneksyon Maurice is not just about jobs; it is about creating opportunities and building a stronger community. Our vision has always been to provide young Mauritians with the tools they need to succeed and despite the hurdles we have faced, we believe this app can truly make a difference. It's about more than just employment; it's about empowerment."

Byron Akaose-Njiaju



TESTIMONIAL



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Stay alert with
floodscape



ABSTRACT

Climate change has intensified flooding worldwide, with Mauritius, particularly Port Louis, facing acute challenges due to its geographical features. The Smart Floodscape team responded by developing an advanced flood monitoring and alert system integrating sensor networks, data analytics and Internet of Things (IoT) technology. This system provides real-time data and prompt warnings, enhancing community preparedness. Utilising the Agile methodology, the team effectively managed project requirements and deadlines while overcoming budget constraints and technical issues. The resulting minimum viable product has already raised public awareness, with plans for further development and expansion to significantly improve flood resilience and contribute to global climate change efforts.

Flood Monitoring and Alert System

The Rising Waters of Mauritius

Climate change has exacerbated extreme weather events globally, making floods increasingly destructive. In Mauritius, particularly in Port Louis, the problem is acute due to the city's geographical features and tropical climate. The inadequacy of current flood monitoring and alert systems underscores the urgent need for a more advanced solution.

Smart Floodscape: An Innovative Approach

In response to this pressing issue, the Smart Floodscape team embarked on developing a sophisticated flood monitoring and alert system. This innovative solution integrates cutting-edge sensor networks, data analytics and IoT technology to deliver real-time flood data, prompt warnings and enhanced community preparedness. The project's mission is to strengthen community resilience by providing timely information and promoting proactive flood management.

Block diagramme of proposed solution

The NodeMCU (Microcontroller) will interface with both the ultrasonic sensor and the float sensor. Upon detecting that the float sensor has reached its maximum level, the NodeMCU will activate the buzzer and illuminate the red LED to signal this condition.

Additionally, all data gathered from the sensors will be transmitted by the NodeMCU to the HiveMQ cloud service.

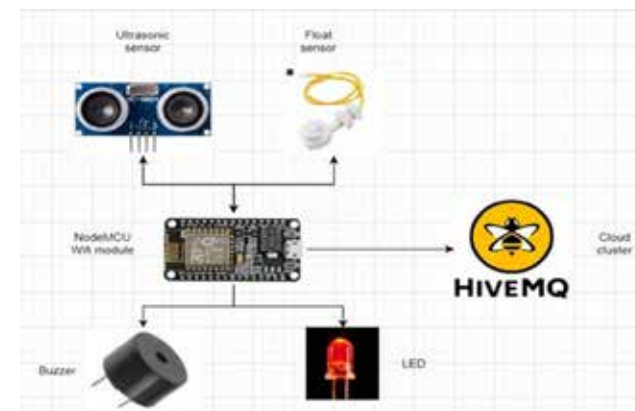


Figure 16: Block Diagramme

Community-Centric Development: Insights and Innovation

Before creating the prototype, the team engaged with local communities to understand their unique needs and identify the limitations of existing systems. This community feedback was crucial in shaping a solution focused on connectivity, data collection, real-time monitoring and user experience.

The system also supports various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as SDG 4 for educating the public, SDG 11 for improving disaster preparedness, SDG 13 for boosting climate resilience and SDG 15 for sustainable water management.

Agile Methodology: Embracing Flexibility and Innovation

The Smart Floodscape project utilised the Agile methodology, which allowed the team to adapt and refine the system dynamically. The development process began with thorough requirement gathering, followed by design, development and rigorous testing.

The iterative approach ensured that each phase was adjusted based on real-world feedback, resulting in a functional prototype ready for deployment and ongoing improvement.

Results and Future Directions

The team successfully developed a minimum viable product, tested it and used it to raise public awareness about flood risks. Future efforts will focus on developing a comprehensive application, enhancing the system with solar power, conducting additional workshops and finding a site for permanent installation.

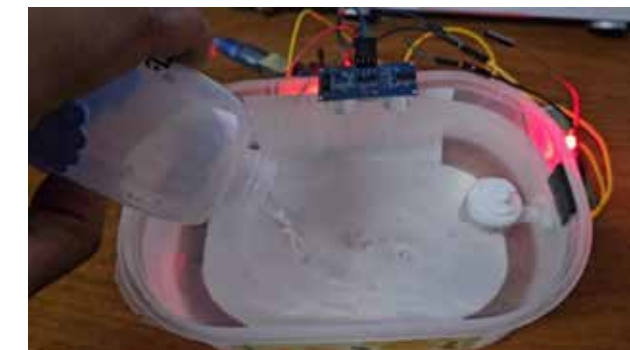


Figure 17: Minimum viable product



Figure 18: Raising awareness about the newly developed system

They managed unclear and evolving requirements by adopting Agile methodology, allowing for iterative feedback and swift adjustments. Tight development timelines required effective prioritisation and decision-making, which the team achieved through collaboration and leveraging individual strengths.

Budget constraints were addressed by securing sponsorships, enhancing their negotiation and stakeholder engagement skills. Technical difficulties during development were met with rigorous testing and troubleshooting, showcasing their resilience and problem-solving abilities.

These experiences collectively strengthened their leadership skills, including resilience, adaptability and effective communication, essential for managing complex projects and driving innovation.



Looking Ahead

Smart Floodscape marks a significant advancement in flood management for Mauritius. By integrating innovative technology with community engagement and an agile development approach, the project lays a strong foundation for future improvements. The system has the potential to greatly enhance flood resilience and contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change.

Overcoming Obstacles: Leadership and Innovation in Action

Throughout the Smart Floodscape project, the team faced significant challenges that tested their leadership and adaptability.

"Our journey with Smart Floodscape has been both challenging and rewarding. Adopting the Agile methodology enabled us to develop a functional prototype that addresses an urgent need for better flood management. Although we are still in the demonstration phase, the progress we made highlights our commitment to innovation. We are eager to advance further, develop new features and expand our reach to better serve the community."

Afreen Zaynab Baureek



TESTIMONIAL

Case Study
REGION: RIVIERE DU REMPART
PROJECT: PLASTIC UPCYCLE AND RECYCLE



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Plastic
Upcycle and
Recycle



ABSTRACT

The “Plastic Upcycle and Recycle” project, led by the ‘Plastic Transformers’ team, tackles the growing plastic waste crisis in Mauritius by repurposing discarded bottles into useful, eco-friendly items like keychains, wallets, coasters, dream catchers, necklaces and brooms. This initiative reduces landfill dependency and fosters sustainable waste management while contributing to the protection of ecosystems. The project’s impact is evident through positive community feedback and its role in promoting environmental awareness. Future plans involve expanding product lines, integrating other wastes like used tyres and glass bottles and hosting educational workshops to further enhance sustainability.

Plastic Upcycle and Recycle

Innovative Solutions for Plastic Waste

Mauritius faces a pressing plastic waste crisis, with landfills nearing capacity and recycling rates falling short. The “Plastic Upcycle and Recycle” project, led by the ‘Plastic Transformers’ team, addresses this critical issue through a transformative approach. By converting discarded plastic bottles into eco-friendly products such as keychains, wallets, necklaces, earrings, dream catchers and brooms, the project mitigates the environmental impact of plastic waste and fosters a shift towards sustainable waste management. This initiative not only reduces landfill dependency but also contributes to preserving marine and terrestrial ecosystems, demonstrating the power of creative solutions in environmental conservation.

Project Management and Implementation

The journey of the ‘Plastic Transformers’ was marked by meticulous planning and execution. The project began with a comprehensive assessment of public awareness about plastic pollution, gathering crucial insights to guide their remedial efforts.

The team then focused on repurposing plastic waste into practical, reusable items such as brooms, keychains, necklaces, earrings, coasters, tote bags and purses.

Their approach to recycling is innovative: by transforming plastic waste into new products without relying on extreme heat, they not only conserve energy but also significantly reduce the carbon footprint associated with traditional plastic production.

Their work aligns seamlessly with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including fostering sustainable cities, promoting responsible consumption and production, protecting marine life and preserving terrestrial ecosystems. Looking ahead, the team is poised to expand their efforts by incorporating additional materials like used tyres and glass bottles and by conducting workshops to educate the community on recycling and upcycling. These steps aim to further reduce plastic waste and generate low-cost business opportunities.

Feedback and Results

The community’s response has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the project’s success in both functionality and environmental impact. The recycled products have been praised for their practicality and contribution to reducing plastic waste. Feedback underscores the project’s effectiveness in raising awareness about recycling and upcycling, demonstrating how innovative solutions can tackle environmental challenges and inspire community action.



Figure 19: Plastic broom made from plastic bottles

Overcoming Challenges and Developing Skills

The journey of the Plastic Transformers team was fraught with challenges that tested their resilience and ingenuity.



Figure 20: Coasters from used plastic bags



Figure 21: Making Keyrings from plastic by doing crochet and stuffing it with plastic bags which are cut into pieces



Figure 22: Dream-catcher made out of plastic bottles

Figure 23: Jewellery made out of plastic



Figure 24: Plastic wallet and tote bag

Limited face-to-face interactions necessitated a shift in strategy, with each team member taking on the responsibility of creating at least one product independently.

This adjustment demanded flexibility and self-discipline. Initial difficulties in communicating with stakeholders were met with perseverance; despite slow or non-existent responses, the team continued to push forward and eventually secured the needed support. Motivating team members posed another challenge, but through encouragement and support, the team leader reignited their enthusiasm and commitment.

Organising a public plastic waste collection required rallying contributions from homes, neighbours and friends, which also served as an opportunity to raise awareness about recycling.

Financial constraints added to the complexity, as the team did not receive the expected funds. They adapted resourcefully, using available tools and the limited sponsorship funds to implement the project successfully. These experiences were instrumental in developing key skills: adaptability, problem-solving and resource management. The team’s ability to overcome these obstacles enhanced their leadership, teamwork and project management abilities, equipping them to tackle future challenges with renewed resilience and creativity.

Looking Ahead

The Plastic Transformers project stands as a powerful testament to environmental sustainability and innovation. By converting plastic waste into valuable products, the team has set a new standard for low-cost entrepreneurship and environmental education.

“Our experience with The Plastic Transformers has been profoundly transformative. We were able to develop a project that not only addresses critical environmental issues but also showcases our commitment to innovation. The progress we have made underscores our dedication to making a meaningful difference. We are excited about continuing to develop our initiative and expanding its reach to better serve our community and advance sustainability.”

Arjoon Iteshsingh (Anish)



TESTIMONIAL

ABSTRACT

Access to information and support plays a crucial role in determining success, especially in educational settings. 'Mo Apran' application (app) was developed to meet the growing demand for effective problem-solving and academic assistance. By collecting detailed user data and incorporating innovative features, the app offers a tailored solution that bridges gaps in information access, supports diverse users and enhances learning experiences. Designed with the modern user in mind, it stands as a testament to the power of technology in transforming support and education.

Mo Apran

Addressing the Challenge of Access to Information

In today's fast-paced world, access to information and support can often determine success, particularly in educational contexts. Many individuals, from students struggling with academic challenges to adults seeking timely problem-solving solutions, face barriers in obtaining the assistance they need. Socio-economic disparities, language barriers and lack of immediate support exacerbate these issues, leaving many without effective resources.

Recognising these pressing challenges, the team set out to make a transformative impact. Their goal was to develop an innovative app that would bridge these gaps, providing a streamlined, user-centric solution for accessing information and academic support. They envisioned a platform that would not only simplify the process of problem-solving but also enhance learning experiences by making support universally accessible and tailored to individual needs.

Understanding User Needs: A Comprehensive Approach

To ensure the app would address real-world issues effectively, the team embarked on a thorough data collection process. They engaged with a diverse range of users, including youth, adults and the elderly, amongst others to gain deep insights into their unique needs and challenges. This extensive research informed the design and functionality of the app, aligning it with the actual requirements of its diverse user base.

Innovative Features: Tailored Solutions for Real-World Challenges

The app stands out through its innovative features designed to address everyday challenges and enhance user experience. Central to its functionality is an AI-powered chatbot, which provides real-time assistance for academic problems, adapting its support to each user's individual needs. The platform leverages cutting-edge technology and improved internet access, reflecting significant advancements in digital infrastructure. Committed to inclusivity, the app ensures gender equality by offering the same level of support to all users, regardless of gender or abilities. It is available for free and supports multiple languages, removing educational barriers and accommodating a diverse user base. The app reduces dependency on teachers by providing students with reliable, on-demand academic help. Users can also upload photos to clarify their issues, with safeguards in place to prevent the sharing of unethical content. These features collectively enhance accessibility and support, making the app a valuable tool for overcoming educational challenges.

Navigating Challenges and Cultivating Leadership

The path to developing and launching the app was marked by a series of significant challenges. Key obstacles included unexpected team changes and stringent deadlines that threatened to derail progress. In the face of these hurdles, the team displayed extraordinary resilience and leadership.

As team members left and new ones joined, the team had to navigate these transitions while maintaining momentum. They addressed these issues with a strategic approach, emphasising open communication and adaptability. Regular meetings and transparent discussions allowed the team to realign their goals and redistribute tasks effectively, ensuring that no aspect of the project was neglected. Time constraints added another layer of complexity, demanding rapid yet thoughtful decision-making. The team responded by revising their project timelines and adjusting their strategies to meet deadlines without compromising the app's quality. This experience honed their ability to adapt swiftly and manage pressure, skills that became crucial in steering the project towards completion.

These challenges not only tested their problem-solving abilities but also strengthened their leadership and teamwork skills. The process of overcoming these obstacles reinforced the importance of resilience, clear communication and collaborative problem-solving. By addressing issues proactively and maintaining a shared vision, the team successfully delivered a functional and impactful app, turning a period of difficulty into an opportunity for growth and development.

Future Plans: Sustaining Growth and Engagement

Looking ahead, the team is committed to sustaining and expanding the app's impact. Plans include enhancing voice features, increasing user engagement through sharing capabilities and maintaining a strong presence on the App Store. Continuous refinement based on user feedback will be prioritised to address emerging challenges and further improve the app's effectiveness.

Setting a New Standard in Information Access

The app represents a significant advancement in making information and support more accessible. Its innovative features and dedication to meeting user needs promise to create a lasting impact. The team's ability to overcome challenges and maintain focus on their vision underscores the app's potential to transform how information and support are accessed and utilised.

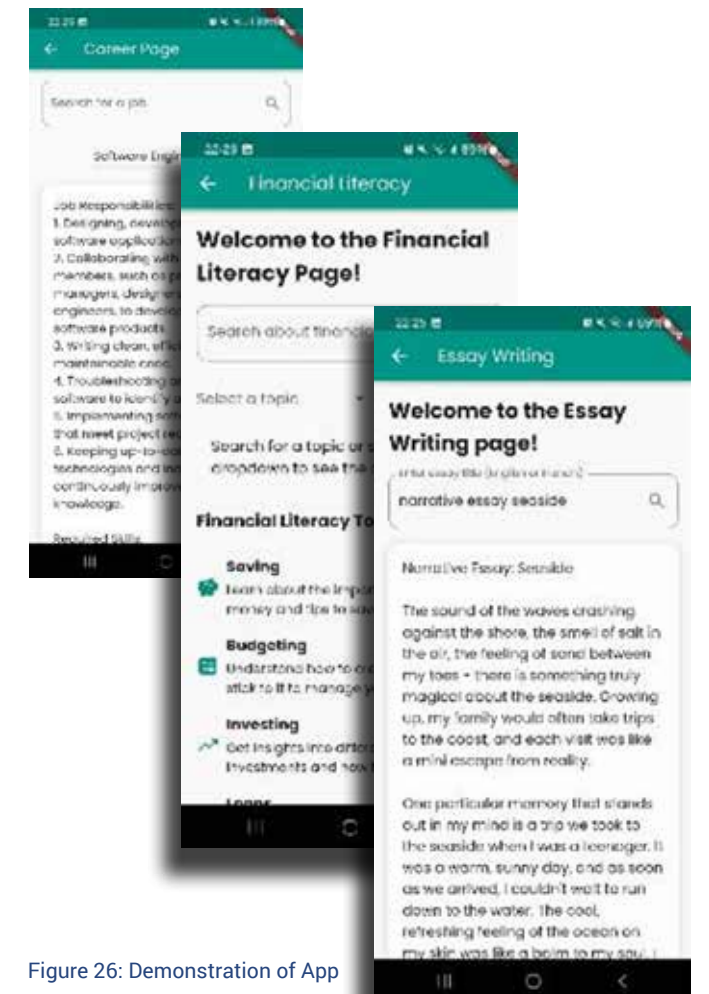


Figure 26: Demonstration of App

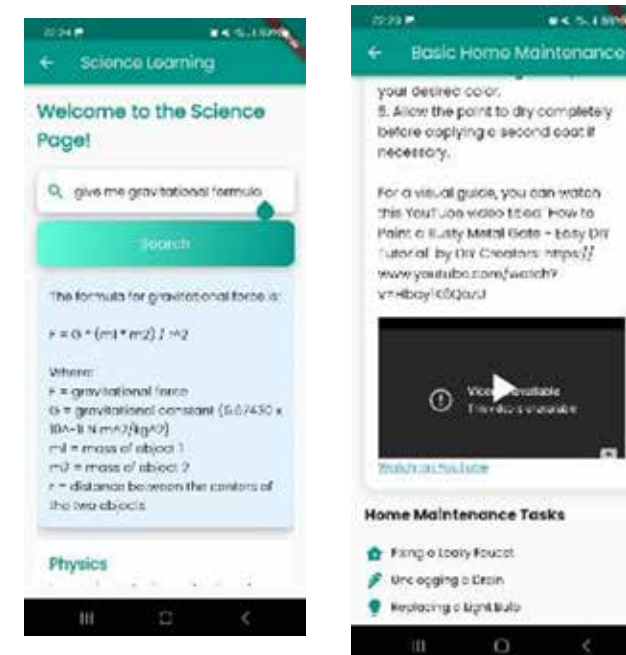


Figure 25: App developed

"Despite facing numerous challenges, including team changes and time constraints, our commitment to this project remained steadfast. The experience has greatly enhanced our problem-solving and collaborative skills and we are excited about the app's future and the positive impact it will have."

Tamanen Vydelingum

TESTIMONIAL

Case Study
REGION: UPPER PLAINES WILHEMS
PROJECT: FEYAZ ECOLOGIK



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Nishta
Munboth
Co-Trainer



*"A nou donn bann fey
enn deziem lavi"*



ABSTRACT

The "Feyaz Ecologik" project in Cité L'Oiseau addressed critical issues of environmental pollution through innovative waste management solutions. By transforming yard waste into eco-friendly paper products and providing training for local residents, the team tackled both pollution and unemployment. Their efforts resulted in improved environmental conditions, economic opportunities and heightened community awareness. The project's success highlights the effectiveness of integrating environmental education with practical, market-driven solutions and sets the stage for future expansion to other communities.

Feyaz Ecologik

Confronting Environmental Challenges and Empowering Change

Cité L'Oiseau has long struggled with environmental pollution stemming from improper disposal of yard waste. This issue has had a profound impact on the community, manifesting in clogged drains, health hazards and a degraded living environment. The situation is further complicated by a general lack of knowledge and resources among residents. Specifically, 42% of unemployed women and 58% of youth aged 18-40 are acutely aware of the waste pollution problem but are constrained by limited understanding and lack of viable alternatives for managing yard waste.

Recognising the gravity of these issues, the 'Lavi Ekolo' team set out with a dual mission: to address the pressing environmental concerns and to provide economic opportunities for local residents. Their approach was to integrate environmental education with practical solutions, focusing on transforming waste into valuable resources. By empowering residents with the knowledge and skills to manage waste sustainably, the team aimed to foster both environmental stewardship and local entrepreneurship.

Identifying and Analysing the Core Issues

To understand the depth of the problem, the team conducted a comprehensive survey to gauge the community's awareness and practices related to waste management.

The findings revealed a multifaceted crisis: pollution from improperly disposed yard waste was prevalent, unemployment among women was high and many youths were not receiving adequate education on environmental protection, contributing to a broader issue of disengagement and lack of awareness.

The analysis focused on several critical questions to pinpoint the root causes and scale of the issue. The team discovered that improper yard waste disposal was the central problem, affecting the community daily and leading to significant environmental and social consequences. The lack of proper disposal methods and insufficient enthusiasm for waste management among residents highlighted the urgent need for effective solutions.



Figure 27: Improper yard waste disposal

Innovating for Impact: Turning Waste into Opportunity

In response to these challenges, the team developed an innovative approach to address both environmental and economic issues. They designed a programme to train unemployed women and youth in Cité L'Oiseau to recycle biodegradable yard waste, such as leaves and grass, into eco-friendly paper products. These products, including keychains, seedling pots and decorative paper, were not only designed to reduce waste but also to provide new business opportunities for local residents.

The initiative aimed to implement a sustainable paper production process that would alleviate the problem of improper waste disposal while simultaneously fostering local entrepreneurship.

By providing practical training and resources, the team sought to empower community members to turn waste into a valuable asset, thus addressing both environmental concerns and economic challenges.

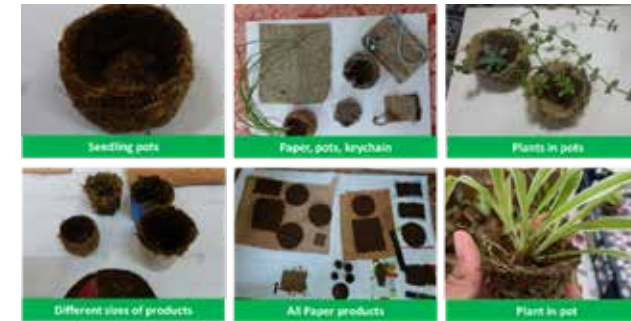


Figure 28: Paper products

Engaging the Next Generation: School Workshops

Understanding the importance of fostering environmental awareness from a young age, the team also conducted workshops in local schools. These sessions were designed to educate students about the impact of waste pollution and the benefits of recycling. Through interactive activities and hands-on experiences, students learned how to create eco-friendly paper products from yard waste. The workshops not only provided valuable knowledge but also encouraged students to become advocates for environmental protection within their families and communities. The positive response from schools underscored the effectiveness of engaging young minds in sustainability efforts and demonstrated the potential for long-term impact through education.



Figure 29: Collaboration with André Bazerque Plaisance Government School

Implementing the Solution: Collaboration and Community Engagement

The successful implementation of the project required collaboration with a variety of stakeholders.

The team engaged with community leaders to rally support and organise clean-up campaigns. They sought sponsorships to acquire the necessary equipment for paper production.

Through these collaborative efforts, the team was able to launch several initiatives, including clean-up campaigns and workshops on paper production. The involvement of local residents and stakeholders played a pivotal role in the project's success, helping to foster a sense of community and shared responsibility.



Figure 30: Cleaning campaigns



Figure 31: Stakeholder's engagement



Figure 32: Collaborations of Sponsors

Case Study
REGION: UPPER PLAINES WILHEMS
PROJECT: FEYAZ ECOLOGIK

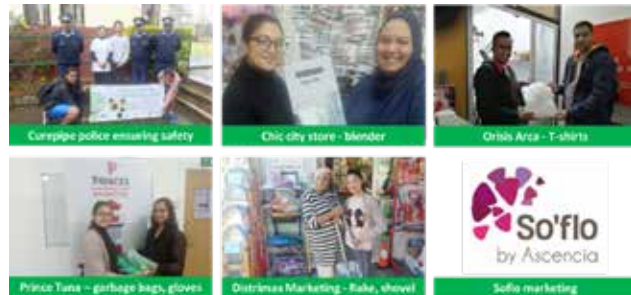


Figure 33: Collaborator's engagement

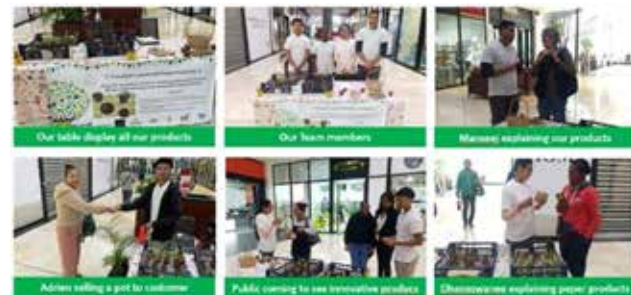


Figure 36: Marketing of paper products at So'flo by Ascencia



Figure 34: Leadership Engine Action Drivers (LEAD) Upper Plains Wilhems Interactions

Achievements and Results: Measuring Success and Growth

The project yielded significant results. The clean-up campaigns were successful in raising environmental awareness and reducing pollution. The paper products manufactured from yard waste were well-received, both in terms of quality and market demand. The workshops provided valuable skills to participants, empowering them to create their own eco-friendly products and contributing to the local economy.

The project's impact was evident in several areas: environmental improvement, economic empowerment, skills development and community engagement. The positive feedback from residents and the increased participation in environmental activities underscored the project's success and its potential for future expansion.



Figure 37: Collaboration with Indika, Pat's Nature Farm and Ferney Agri-Hub



Figure 35: Conducting workshop on paper manufacturing process as well as certification of attendance to participants

"Despite the obstacles we encountered, including task overload and disagreements, our commitment to the project never wavered. As a team, we remained focused on our mission and worked collaboratively to overcome challenges. This experience has not only strengthened our leadership and problem-solving skills but also demonstrated the potential for community-driven solutions to make a significant impact. We are proud of the progress we have made and excited about the future possibilities for expanding our work."

Dhaneswaneeroopchand



TESTIMONIAL



National Leadership Engine



Ministry of Industry,
SMEs and Cooperatives



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